

Message Text

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15

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INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PL

SUBJECT: LENGTHY POLITYKA ARTICLE ON MEAT SHORTAGE

REF WARSAW 1353

1. THE LEAD ARTICLE IN THE MARCH 15 ISSUE OF POLITYKA IS A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF THE REASONS FOR THE CURRENT MEAT SHORTAGE AND THE PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVING THE SUPPLY TO THE MARKET. WRITTEN BY ZYGMUNT SZELIGA, A POLITYKA STAFF WRITER ON INTERNAL ECONOMICS, THE ARTICLE IS ENTITLED "MEAT -- DIFFICULTIES AND PROSPECTS".

IT DOES NOT AVOID OR WHITEWASH THE PROBLEM AND ADMITS THAT THE SUDDENNESS WITH WHICH THE SHORTAGE DEVELOPED SURPRISED THE GOVERNMENT AND WAS DIFFICULT TO FORESEE BECAUSE THE TOTAL MEAT SUPPLY TO THE MARKET WAS 8 PERCENT GREATER THIS FEBRUARY THAN A YEAR AGO. REFERRING TO GIEREK'S AND JAROSZEWICZ'S MARCH 6 SPEECHES, SZELIGA SAYS THAT THE GOVERNMENT QUICKLY RECOGNIZED AND PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED THE SITUATION AND MOVED TO IMPROVE THE MARKET SUPPLY OF MEAT, WHICH SZELIGA SAYS HAS BEEN

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ACCOMPLISHED. SZELIGA THEN ANALYZES IN GREAT DETAIL THE ORIGIN

OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM, AND WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY STATING AS MUCH, SUGGESTS THAT IT DOES NOT LEND ITSELF TO A QUICK AND EASY SOLUTION.

2. THE APPEARANCE OF THIS ARTICLE IN THE PRESTIGIOUS AND AUTHORITATIVE POLITYKA REINFORCES THE VIEW (REFTEL) THAT THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZE THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM AND HAVE DECIDED TO SEEK PUBLIC SUPPORT THROUGH A FRANK PRESENTATION OF THE SITUATION. AT A RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE AMBASSADOR THIS WEEK, POLITYKA EDITOR RAKOWSKI TOLD PROFESSOR JAN SZCZEPANSKI IN THE PRESENCE OF AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT POLITYKA WOULD CARRY A LENGTHY, DEFINITIVE ARTICLE ON THE MEAT SHORTAGE. SZCZEPANSKI RESPONDED THAT IN THAT CASE, POLITYKA SHOULD INCREASE ITS PRESS RUN.

3. ALTHOUGH THE MEAT SUPPLY HAS DEFINITELY IMPROVED, GRUMBLING CONTINUES. WE ARE NOT AWARE, HOWEVER, OF ANY FURTHER PUBLIC DISTURBANCES. NEVERTHELESS, CONCERN ABOUT THE PROBLEM REMAINS WIDESPREAD AMONG RESPONSIBLE POLES, MANY OF WHOM HAVE EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM TO US ABOUT THE ABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO COME UP WITH A SOLUTION.

DAVIES

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